

**WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT BY HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR  
OF LEPELLE-NKUMPI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY COUNCILLOR  
MODILE IVY PHAAHLA ON THE OCCASSION OF NATIONAL  
CHILD INJURY PREVENTION WEEK ORGANISED BY ESKOM  
AT LEBOWAKGOMO STADIUM**

**25 AUGUST 2012**

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

ESKOMITES

SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

EDUCATORS

SCHOOL LEARNERS

ALL STAKEHOLDRES

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GOOD MORNING!!

THOBELA!!

It is indeed gratifying to host Eskomites, SGBs, Educators, School Learners and all stakeholders in our Municipality today as part of our contribution to this National Child Injury Prevention Week organised by Eskom. This illustrates the commitment of all stakeholders to increase awareness and understanding of children's vulnerability to injuries and incidents.

Bageshu, le gopotswa gore ngwana yo mongwe le yo mongwe o na le tokelo ya go gola ka fase ga tshireletso ntle le matshoshetsi a gore a ka kweshwa bohloko. Ke ka lebaka leo go lego bohlokwa gore bana ba se ke ba ralokela kgauswi le mathala a mohlagase. Re bolela ka tsela ye ka lebaka la gore bana ke bona baetapele ba ka moso.

## Programme Director

Electricity is dangerous because of its disruptive effect on the life support organs of the human body. We characterize electricity by two quantities, namely: voltage and current. Voltage is measured in units called volts and current is measured in units called amps. The primary factors determining the effect of electricity on the body are the amount and path of the current passing through the body.

Scientists have shown that currents of less than 0,02 amp may produce sensations ranging from tingling to sharp pain. A more serious effect occurs if the current causes muscles to contract. A person touching a live wire with their outstretched hand may literally not be able to let go of the wire due to the current's effect on the muscles.

The most dangerous range of currents is from 0,1 to about 0,2 amps. Currents in this range can cause death by initiating fibrillation (uncontrollable twitching) of the heart, which stops the regular flow of blood to the rest of the body. Currents much larger than 0,1 amp DO NOT result in fibrillation but instead stop the heart completely. If the duration of the current is short, the heart will usually start to beat by itself after the current is removed.

The resistance (which is measured in ohms) of the human body can range from one hundred to one million ohms. Wet skin has a much lower resistance to current than dry skin. This is why electrical appliances warn against use while in the shower or bath.

The path of current through a body also determines the magnitude of the effect. Current entering a body wants to travel a path of least resistance and exit through the part of the body to the ground. Because the heart is on the left side of the body, touching a live wire with your left hand means that the shortest path to the ground involves passing through your heart. If current travels through the right side of the body, the current is less likely to affect the heart.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although electricity has simplified many aspects of our lives, care must be taken when using electrical appliances. The electricity in your home is dangerous. Many people have had an electric shock at some time or another without lasting injury but this does not show immunity, merely the unpredictable nature of electricity. Slightly different circumstances could have resulted in death; it can easily kill people especially if you are young, old or sick. This is why all the wiring in a house has different forms of protection and is generally built into the walls, ceilings and floors.

Going forward you are therefore advised to take care of the following:

- If you put something metal in a socket it could give you an electric shock
- Keep water and drinks away from electricity and never take electricity into the bathroom. If you have wet hands you should not touch electricity, you should wipe your hands because you could get an electric shock
- Do not let leads from electrical wires drag across the floor,
- If you leave a light bulb on you can burn yourself because it can be very hot,
- Do not put flammable materials on hot things as they can burn,
- Never leave fire by electrical items,
- Batteries are less dangerous than using plugs,
- If you plug too many plugs just in one socket than it may get over heated and catch fire.

**WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE TO INCREASE  
AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF CHILDREN'S  
VULNERABILITY TO INJURIES AND INCIDENTS!!!!!!!**

**I THANK YOU!!!!**

**KE A LBOGA!!!!**